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Seventy-third year

Identical letters dated 20 December 2017 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I transmit to you herewith the recommendation concerning the recent decision of the Government of the United States of America on Jerusalem that was adopted by the Lebanese Parliament at its session of 8 December 2017 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 37, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Hassan **Abbas**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex to the identical letters dated 20 December 2017 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Recommendation of the Lebanese Parliament concerning the recent decision of the Government of the United States of America on Jerusalem

The Lebanese Parliament, which convened on 8 December 2017 to discuss the American decision concerning Quds al-Sharif, believes that the decision to move the American embassy and recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel will lead to war, threatens regional and international peace and security, and provides a cover for Israel's occupation, acts of aggression, settlement-building and all its transgressions of international and humanitarian law. This decision also gives impetus to the hostile plans to Israelize and Judaize Palestine, and such a development would, in turn, portend implementation of the plan to resettle and disperse the Palestinian people and dispense with the question of Palestine, and serve as a prelude to the realignment of the political geography of the Arab region.

The Lebanese Parliament deplores and condemns this decision and reaffirms that the starting point for building and crafting just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East is to underscore the Palestinian people's national right and aspiration to return, and their rights to exercise self-determination, establish an independent Palestinian State with Jerusalem as its capital and implement Security Council resolutions concerning Arab territories.

The Parliament reaffirms that:

1. It supports the right of the Palestinian people to engage in its just resistance and struggle to free itself from Israeli occupation and realize its right to return and establish an independent State, with Jerusalem as its capital.

2. It strongly rejects the decision of the American Administration to close the office of the Palestine Liberation Organization in Washington.

3. It condemns the decision of the Israeli occupiers to continue their colonialist settlement-building activities in the occupied territory of the Palestinian State.

4. The Palestinian parliamentarians who were abducted and detained in the Israeli occupiers' prisons or are being held in administrative detention must be freed. To that end, parliaments and regional and international parliamentary groups, led by the Inter-Parliamentary Union, must take punitive and deterrent measures

5. It supports Palestinian national reconciliation under the auspices of the Palestine Liberation Organization and calls for all efforts to be directed towards completing the march to independence, culminating in the return of the refugees to their homes and the establishment of a fully sovereign, independent State.

6. All Arab and regional efforts must be directed at employing all capabilities to help Palestinians exercise their rights and to avoid all other conflicts.

7. This recommendation should be transmitted, in the name of the Lebanese people and Government, to the American Administration, the members of the Security Council and the United Nations General Assembly, and it should be considered an official document in the name of the Lebanese people.

(*Signed*) Nabih **Berri**
Speaker of the Parliament